WE CLAIM:

1. A computer-readable medium encoded with computer-executable instructions for performing a method that manages objects within a cache, the method comprising:

determining a weight for each of a plurality of objects stored in a cache;

determining a rank for each of the plurality of objects based on the weight;

storing a rank for each of the plurality of objects; and

deleting a low priority object from within the cache, the low priority object having the lowest rank among the plurality of objects.

2. The computer-readable medium of claim 1, wherein deleting a low priority object from within the cache is based on a policy comprising at least one of: storage considerations, sensitive information, and the possibility of being accessed again.

3. The computer-readable medium of claim 1, wherein determining the weight is based on at least two factors.

4. The computer-readable medium of claim 1, wherein determining the weight includes applying an adjustment for each of a plurality of factors associated with the object.

5. The computer-readable medium of claim 4, wherein the adjustment for each of the plurality of factors is obtained from a policy.

6. The computer-readable medium of claim 5, wherein the policy comprises a group policy for several computers.

7. The computer-readable medium of claim 5, wherein the policy is defined via an XML document.

8. The computer-readable medium of claim 5, wherein the policy is defined via a user interface.

9. The computer-readable medium of claim 1, wherein storing the rank comprises storing the weight within a link in a linked list, the link being associated with one of the plurality of objects and the link including a reference to the one object that uniquely identifies the one object within the cache.

10. The computer-readable medium of claim 1, wherein determining a weight comprises:
    determining a value for each of at least one factors; and
    applying each of the determined values to an absolute value.

11. The computer-readable medium of claim of claim 10, wherein the absolute value comprises the number of seconds since a pre-determined time .

12. The method of claim 1, further comprising obtaining a policy that describes an adjustment for a plurality of factors associated with the objects, the adjustment being used when determining the weight.

13. The computer-readable medium of claim 1, wherein the determining the weight is performed whenever the object is accessed.

14. The computer-readable medium of claim 1, wherein determining the weight is performed whenever a policy that affects the weight determination is changed.

15.   A computer-readable medium encoded with computer-executable instructions for performing a method that evicts objects from a cache, the method comprising:

obtaining a policy related to the purpose for eviction;

accessing a queue corresponding to the policy;

selecting an object within the queue based on the ranking of the object within the queue;

deleting the object from the queue; and

deleting the object from the cache.

16.   The computer-readable medium of claim 15, wherein the policy defines at least two factors and specifies an adjustment for each of the at least two factors.

17.   The computer-readable medium of claim 15, wherein the policy is a group policy applicable to several computers.

18.   The computer-readable medium of claim 15, wherein the policy is defined via an XML document.

19.   The computer-readable medium of claim 15, wherein the policy is defined via a user interface.

20.   The computer-readable medium of claim 15, wherein selecting the object comprises identifying a link out of a plurality of links in a link list, each of the plurality of links being associated with one of a plurality of objects stored in the cache, the identified link having the lowest importance.

21.   The computer-readable medium of claim 15, further comprising deleting the object from another queue that ranks the objects based on another policy.

22.   The computer-readable medium of claim 15, further comprising accessing metadata that identifies a location within the cache for the object and that identifies a link associated with the object for each of a plurality of queues.

23.   The computer-readable medium of claim 22, further comprising deleting the object from the plurality of queues based on the link associated with the object for each queue.

24.   A computer-readable medium having computer-executable components with instructions for managing objects within a cache, the instructions comprising:

        a first component configured to download objects from a remote computer to a local computer;

        a second component configured to assign a weight to each object that is downloaded, to store the weight, and to store the object in the cache, the second component further configured to perform an eviction process within the cache, the eviction process comprising:

                obtaining a policy related to the purpose for eviction;

                accessing a queue corresponding to the policy;

                selecting an object within the queue based on the ranking of the object within the queue;

                deleting the object from the queue; and

                deleting the object from the cache.

25.   The computer-readable medium of claim 24, wherein selecting the object is based on at least two factors are obtained from a policy that lists the at least two factors and prioritizes the at least two factors based on importance.

26.   The computer-readable medium of claim 25, wherein the policy is a group policy applicable to several computers.

27.   The computer-readable medium of claim 25, wherein the policy is defined via an XML document.

28.   The computer-readable medium of claim 25, wherein the policy is defined via a user interface.

29.   A system for managing objects within a cache, comprising:

a processor;

a memory into which a plurality of instructions are loaded, the plurality of instructions performing a method comprising:

determining a weight for each of a plurality of objects stored in a cache;

determining a rank for each of the plurality of objects based on the weight;

storing a rank for each of the plurality of objects; and

deleting a low priority object from within the cache, the low priority object having the lowest rank among the plurality of objects.

30.   The system of claim 29, wherein deleting a low priority object from within the cache is based on a policy comprising at least one of: storage considerations, sensitive information, and the possibility of being accessed again.

31.   The system of claim 29, wherein determining the weight is based on at least two factors.

32.   The system of claim 29, wherein determining the weight includes applying an adjustment for each a plurality of factors associated with the object.

33.   The system of claim 32, wherein the relative importance of the plurality of factors is obtained from a policy.

34.   A system for evicting objects from within a cache, comprising:

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a processor;

a memory into which a plurality of instructions are loaded, the plurality of instructions performing a method comprising:

locating an object from within a cache based on a weight that has been assigned to the object, the weight being based on at least two factors and indicating that the object is the least important object in the cache; and

deleting the object from the cache.

35.   The system of claim 34, wherein the at least two factors are obtained from a policy that lists the at least two factors.